Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 14077 241746Z ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8669

SECRETCAIRO 14077

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PLO

SUBJ: LANDRUM BOLLING MEETING WITH ARAFAT

- 1. LANDRUM BOLLING CAME BY LATE THIS AFTERNOON. HE HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM BEIRUT, WHERE HE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH ARAFAT. IN BEIRUT, HE FOUND THAT ARAFAT WAS IN CAIRO. WHN HE ARRIVED IN CAIRO EARLIER TODAY, HE FOUND ARAFAT WAS IN TRIPOLI, BUT EXPCTED BACK THIS EVENING.
- 2. BOLLING SAYS YOU AND BILL QUANDT BRIEFED HIM ON STATE OF PLAY RE PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242. HE WAS TOLD IN BEIRUT THAT ARAFAT IS ALLEGEDLY ANNOYED BY A MESSAGE SAID TO HAVE COME FROM US SUGGESTING THAT IF HE DID NOT ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242, WE WOULD BYPASS HIM. I TOLD BOLLINT I KNEW OF NO MESSAGE AND QUESTIONED THE VERACITY OF THAT REPORT. CONCEIVABLY THE SAUDIS OR EGYPTIANS, IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE ARAFAT TO ACCEPT 242, MAY HAVE USED LANGUAGE OF THAT SORT. I STRONGLY DOUBTED THAT ANYTHING LIKE IT HAD COME FROM US.
- 3. BOLLING THEN ALLUDED TO LANGUAGE WHICH PLO MIGHT SECRET

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USE RE RESERVATION ON 242. HE STATED THAT IN TALKS IN WHITE HOUSE, HE HAD GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS SOME FLEXIBILITY ON OUR PART RE EXACT LANGUAGE. HE HAD BEEN SHOWN OUR LAST FORMULATION (SECTO 8075), BUT COULD NO LONGER REMEMBER EXACT WORDING. I SHOWED IT TO HIM.

4. AS WE WERE TALKING (1815 LOCAL), HE RECEIVED A PHONE CALL AT MY OFFICE FROM TAHSIN BAHSHIR. LATTER IS GOBETWEEN IN EGYPT. BASHIR INFORMED HIM THAT ARAFAT HAD JUST RETURNED TO CAIRO FROM TRIPOLI AND ASKED THAT HE CALL PKX REP SARTAWI IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE MEETING FOR TONIGHT. SARTAWI WAS AT SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL. BOLLING WANTED TO CALL FROM MY OFFICE, BUT I POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE MAKE SUCH CALL FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. IT COULD GIVE RISE TO WRONG IMPRESSIONS.
BOLLING READILY UNDERSTOOD AND LEFT A FEW MINUTES AGO TO GO TO SARTAWI'S HOTEL ROOM TO ARRANGE FOR MEETING.

5. BOLLING INDICATED THAT IF ANYTHING INTERESTING COMES OUT OF MEETING, HE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH ME TOMORROW. EILTS

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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